CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

FEBRUARY 1979 32

President: Mrs R. Mills
Minute Sec: Mrs B. Singleton
General Sec: Mr M. Winterbottom
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.

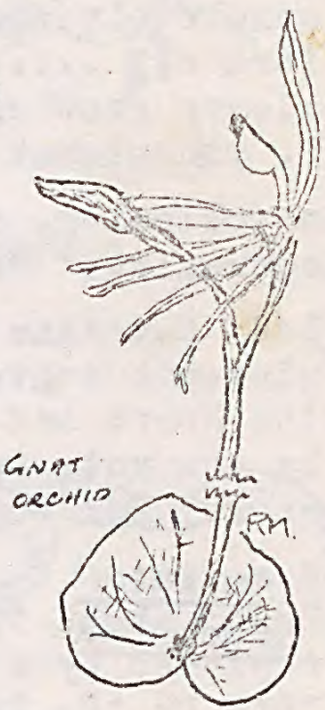
Monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC building, Mostyn St.). Visitors and prospective members are invited.

Orchids of the Castlemaine District Number 19 of a series

by R. Mills

GNAT ORCHID (Acianthus reniformis)

The red stems of these little orchids are only 7.5 - 15 cm high and bear one or two pale green and red flowers. The general appearance of the orchid with its slim lateral sepals and petals and its long narrow tongue gives the impression of a gnat, hence the name.
The leaf is heart or kidney shaped, hence the specific name (Reniformis means kidney-shaped).



It has been found at Harcourt, Barkers Creek, Maldon, Muckleford, Newstead and Castlemaine in small colonies, usually near rocky outcrops.

It flowers in August and September.

Another report from the "Mt Alexander Mail" July 10, 1856

Dr. Casperson reported finding a centipede 'upwards of seven inche (17 cm). It came to him in a load of wood, and he sounded a warnin that such a monster could easily mean the death of a small child if it were bitten by the beastie. (contributed by Ray Bradfield)

TEST YOUR SKILL - a quiz supplied by Jim Newell

Remembering Dr Mould's talk last year, and our various reactions to it, these quotations should be of interest.
They are from a recent account, by one who really knows and loves the country concerned.

Try filling in the missing words, and guessing what state is referred to, and then turn to the back page for confirmation.

" The land you drive through today is mostly the creation of man. Good .... started planting his forests of imported pine trees in ..... (date), and under Dr. ..... the plantations have reached almost to the very mountain tops.
On the lower slopes they have been joined by the horrible ....., which exhausts the soil, smells like a chemist's shop, and drives away insects, and thus birds and animals as well.

In the remote north-east of ....., whole hillsides have been planted with ..... and Pinus pinaster during the past 40 years. This afforestation has completely changed the life of the inhabitants, who were formerly ..... . The indigenous pine-tree is slower growing, less useful and more beautiful than P. pinaster."

The following, also gleaned from recent reading, is more encouraging. We are not unique!

"Lady Mumadona (of Portugal) founded a monastery in the mid-eleventh centuary, and built a castle to protect it from the Moors and Vikings. In 1836 the whole castle escaped by one vote in the municipal council from being used as a quarry for the construction of new houses in the town! "

And again:
"Round about 1700 the medieval residence of the constable was replaced by a fine arcaded house. This was demolished in 1935 by the Direcorate of National Monuments during work of 'renovation and restoration'. "

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Committee for 1978: Pres: Mrs R. Mills, Min Sec: Mrs B Singleton, Gen Sec: Mr L Bransgrove, Treas: Mr L. Bransgrove.

Mr F. Blake, Mr C. Singleton, Miss K. Singleton, Miss J. Chapman, Mr F. Meyer, Mr R. Bradfield, Mrs R. Winterbottom, Mr E. Perkins.

(Newsletter)

EXCURSION SUPPLEMENT

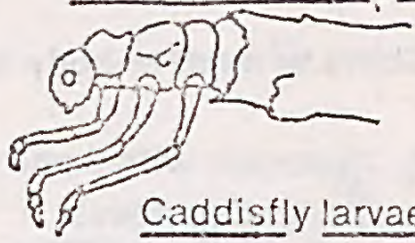
FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATE KEY

1 Macroscopic, i.e. >1/10" or 2.5 mm long – readily visible.....2

2 Shapeless form, encrusting plant stems, logs etc.

Freshwater Sponge

2' Like a moving stick or joined leaves. (on close examination it has an insect head protruding from one end)



Caddisfly larvae

2" Definite animal shape with head, body etc.....3

3 Body not, or apparently not, segmented.....4

4 Body enclosed in a coiled shell

Snails

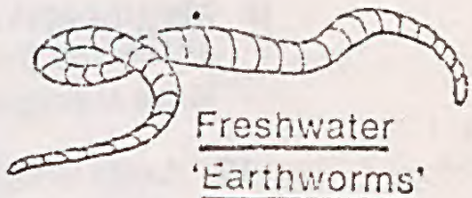
4' Body with four pairs of long legs Watermites

3' Body segmented into at least two, usually more divisions.....5

5 There are no jointed appendages (legs, arms etc) obvious.....6

6 Number of body segments – 15.....7

7 Animal round in cross section; no suckers, small (approx. 5 mm)



Freshwater 'Earthworms'

7' Animal flat in cross section; sucker at posterior end, large (approx, 10 mm) Leeches

6' Number of body segments – 12.....8

8 Animal clear with two silvery air bladders at each end. very active and difficult to see.

Phantom Midge

8' Animal usually opaque, often red, no air bladders, usually sluggish

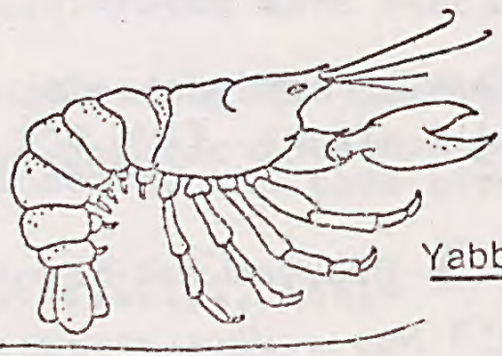
Blood Midge

5' Some or most of body segments with jointed appendages.....9

9 Abdomen with 5 pairs of jointed appendages. 10

Higher Crustacea

10 Outer skin (i.e. carapace) thick and opaque, usually with large nippers, crawls on bottom



Yabbie

10' Outer skin is hard and thin, usually clear, nippers small, active swimmer.

Shrimp

9' Cephalothorax with 4 pairs of jointed appendages.

Water Mites.....

9'' Thorax (chest) with 3 pairs of jointed appendages.

Insects.....11

11 Mouthparts extended into a beak (i.e. sucking tubes). Also small antennae (feelers), upper surface with a large triangle towards the front. Bugs

12 Legs longer than twice length of body, skims on water surface.

Water Strider

12' Legs less than twice as long as the body. 13

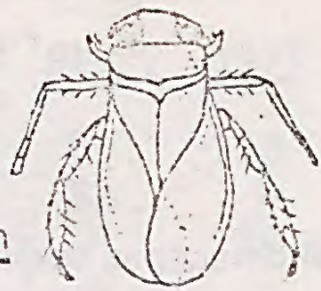
13 Body oval, front legs used for grasping.

Oval Water Bug

13' Body streamlined. 14

14 Swims on back, hind legs long and used as oars.

Ventral (bottom) view
Backswimmer



14' Swims normally, front legs with spoon-shaped organ at tip.

Water Boatman

11' Mouthparts biting (i.e. with mandibles) 15

15 Adult insect with wings under a hard upper covering over the abdomen. Beetles 16

16 Each eye divided, so that there seems to be 2 pairs of eyes. Active swimmer on surface

Whirlygig Beetle

16' One pair of eyes, usually submerged 17

17 Base of hind legs large, no keel beneath.

(Ventral view)
Diving Beetles

17' Base of hind legs small, keel beneath.

Water Lovers

15' Larvae, lacking wings. 18

18 Pair of 'legs' at hind end, usually without sharp jaws.

(Case removed)
(Caddisfly Larvae

18' No such pair of 'legs', usually with sharp jaws.

Beetle Larvae

11" 15 Larvae, with wing pads covering only a small portion of the abdomen.
(Dragonflies and Damselflies) Odonata 19

19 Slender insect with 3 leaf-like gills at hind-end. Usually light colored

Damselfly nymph

19' Stout insect without external gills, typically dark colored.

Dragonfly nymph

1' Microscopic, i.e. <1/10" or 2.5 mm long – just visible 20

20 Body almost or totally enclosed in bivalve (two parts) shell.....21

21 Body completely enclosed in a bivalve shell. thorax with only 2 pairs of limbs.

Seed Shrimps

21' Head not enclosed in the bivalve shell, thorax with 4-6 pairs of limbs.

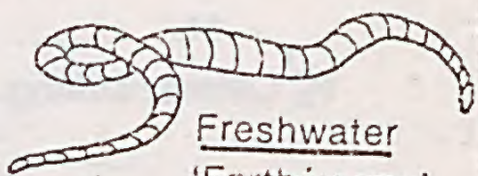
Water Fleas

20' Not so. 22

22 Apparently not segmented, 4 pairs of legs. Water Mites.....see 4b

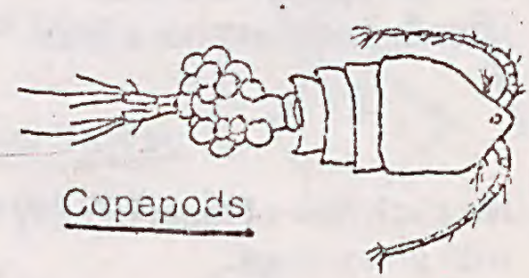
22' Segmented. 23

23 Worm-like, no jointed appendages, but often with long bristles Freshwater 'Earthworm' .....



Freshwater 'Earthworms'

23' Body cigar-shaped with a pair of long antennae and 5 pairs of swimmerets, on the thorax.



Copepods

Adapted from Gould League.

SIMPLIFIED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE (to nearest$)

Receipts	1977	1978
Initial balance	74	44
Subscriptions	109	148
Donations	9	32
Magazine sales	11	11
Car stickers	2	2
Beauglehole fund	22	28
Supper donations	-	11
Monthly competition	-	8
	227	284

Expenses	1977	1978
Printing	89	113
Report cards	32	-
Petty cash	10	10
Rubber stamp	9	-
Delegates expenses	10	-
Affiliations-FNCV	8	8
-WVFNCA	5	5
Donations	15	-
Campout expenses	-	13
Room rent	5	52
Beauglehole fund	-	50
Wreath	-	10
Hire, Mini-flora	-	10
Supper costs	-	3
Final balance	44	10
	227	284

(Note: The balance sheets above have been prepared using the 1977 and 1978 statements of receipts and expenditure; some contra items have been left out).

SECRETARY'S REPORT by M. Winterbottom

The February 1979 meeting marks the completion of the Club's third year of operation.

Our treasurer reports that he has issued receipts for 27 family groups and 8 single memberships, so that the membership would be approximately eighty, an increase of some 40% over last year.

Apart from the monthly meetings and outings, activities in the past year were extended to guiding public tours in the Muckleford Forest and Kaweka Sanctuary during festival time. In addition, the Club was host to the Western Victorian Field Naturalist camp out at Vaughan/Fryerstown and provided a number of items on that meeting's agenda.

The Club regrets the death of Miss Fay McIver, our first life member. In spite of major physical disabilities she contributed greatly to the Field Naturalist movement and was ever ready to help with her wide knowledge, particulary orchids.

1978 must be considered a successful year, and it is up to members to make 1979 even better.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Friday Feb 9th BIRDS OF PREY

Speaker is Mr Ray Wallace.

MARCH MEETING Fri Mar 9th

Program to be arranged.

QUIZ ANSWERS

King Dinis
13th Century
Salazar
Eucalyptus
Portugal
Eucalyptus
shepherds

All of the quotations are from "Portugal", Frank Tuohy (Thames and Hudson, London, 1970)

EXCURSIONS

Sat Feb 10th Pond Life

Leave the Education Centre at 1.30 p.m.
Leader: G. Broadway.

Sat March10

The Clay Quarries. Leave the Education Centre at 1.30 p.m.

WVFNCA CAMPOUTS FOR 1979

April 27-29	Halls Gap
August	Sunraysia
Oct 12-14	Nelson (Portland)

SUPPER ROSTER

J Chapman, R. Winterbottom, J. Buntine.

ANNUAL MEETING Positions to be filled are

President, Vice Presidents(2), Secretary and Treasurer. Four other committee members.

Book Review

BUSHWALKING IN THE VICTORIAN RANGES , F.W. Halls (Rigby)

The author tells of his experiences walking through many parts of Victoria. Of particular interest to some Club members is the story of a walk from Taradale to Fryerstown.

A sample, at Fryerstown:-

" Now those teeming days are long gone; only a handful of people dwell here in these modern times. If ever a valley were haunted by shades of our golden past, this is it; over the long grassy slopes of this pleasant valley, as peaceful a valley as you'd find anywhere, the Pallid Cuckoo's haunting call rings out along grassy glades by the picturesque freestone ruims of old settlements"

Other areas include Wyperfeld, The Grampians, Melvilles Caves, Marysville and the Alpine Regions.

Price is $9 - $10, my copy from the Castlemaine Library.